

Appl. No. 10/659,127  
Amdt. dated August 9, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2006

PATENT

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1 Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An information backup system, comprising:

2 A. a local computing system including

3 (i) a local disk; and

4 (ii) a local device driver responsive to requests from a local application

5 executing on said local computing system, for selectively processing calls to said local

6 disk or a remote disk for backup of data resident on said local disk, wherein the local

7 device driver is disposed between a disk driver and a system interface and monitors the

8 availability of the local disk; and

9 B. a remote computing system including

10 (i) said remote disk; and

11 (ii) a remote device driver responsive to calls from either said local

12 device driver or calls from a remote application executing on said remote computing

13 system, wherein calls from said local device driver are processed to perform backup

14 operations to said remote disk of data resident on said local computing system.

1 Claim 2. (Original) The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said local  
2 device driver communicates with a local disk cache disk driver to perform caching in said local  
3 computing system.

1 Claim 3. (Original) The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said  
2 local device driver communicates with a network interface card driver on said local computing  
3 system to create a connection with said remote computing system.

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1           Claim 4. (Original) The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said  
2 local device driver does not require any changes to an operating system executing on said local  
3 computing system.

1           Claim 5. (Original) The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said  
2 remote device driver communicates with said local device driver through a network interface  
3 card driver on said remote computing system.

1           Claim 6. (Original) The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said  
2 remote driver does not require any changes to an operating system executing on said remote  
3 computing system.

1           Claim 7. (Original) The information backup system of claim 1, wherein said  
2 remote device driver communicates with a local disk cache disk driver to perform caching in said  
3 remote computing system.

1           Claim 8. (Original) The information backup system of claim 3, wherein said  
2 network interface card driver on said local computing system communicates with said remote  
3 computing system via the Internet.

1           Claim 9. (Original) The information backup system of claim 3, wherein said  
2 network interface card driver on said local computing system communicates with said remote  
3 computing system via a LAN or WAN.

1           Claim 10. (Original) The information backup system of claim 5, wherein said  
2 network interface card driver on said remote computing system communicates with said remote  
3 computing system via the Internet.

1           Claim 11. (Original) The information backup system of claim 5, wherein said  
2 network interface card driver on said remote computing system communicates with said remote  
3 computing system via a LAN or WAN.

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1 Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method of information backup in a distributed  
2 environment, said method comprising:

3 providing a local device driver on a local computing system responsive to  
4 requests from a local application executing on a local computing system, for selectively  
5 processing calls to a local disk or a remote disk in said distributed environment for backup of  
6 data resident on said local disk, wherein the local device driver operates between a disk driver  
7 and a system interface and monitors the availability of the local disk; and

8 providing a remote device driver on a remote computing system responsive to  
9 calls from either said local device driver or calls from a remote application executing on a remote  
10 computing system, wherein calls from said local device driver are processed to perform backup  
11 operations to said remote disk of data resident on said local computing system, wherein the  
12 remote device driver operates between a remote disk driver and a remote system interface and  
13 monitors the availability of the remote disk, wherein if the local disk is deemed inaccessible by  
14 the local device driver, the local device driver routes read/write operations of the local  
15 computing system to the remote computing system.

1 Claim 13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said local device driver  
2 communicates with a local disk cache disk driver to perform caching in said local computing  
3 system.

1 Claim 14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said local device driver  
2 communicates with a network interface card driver on said local computing system to create a  
3 connection with said remote computing system.

1 Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said local device driver  
2 does not require any changes to an operating system executing on said local computing system.

1 Claim 16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said remote device driver  
2 communicates with said local device driver through a network interface card driver on said  
3 remote computing system.

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1 Claim 17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said remote driver does  
2 not require any changes to an operating system executing on said remote computing system.

1 Claim 18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said remote device driver  
2 communicates with a local disk cache disk driver to perform caching in said remote computing  
3 system.

1 Claim 19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said network interface  
2 card driver on said local computing system communicates with said remote computing system  
3 via the Internet.

1 Claim 20. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said, network interface  
2 card driver on said local computing system communicates with said remote computing system  
3 via a LAN or WAN.

1 Claim 21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said network interface  
2 card driver on said remote computing system communicates with said remote computing system  
3 via the Internet.

1 Claim 22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein said network interface  
2 card driver on said remote computing system communicates with said remote computing system  
3 via a LAN or WAN.